Government of India constituted an Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Rethinam, Former Chairman, Coconut Development Board. Considering the present trend of fall in prices, as well as the problems of arecanut farmers, as represented by various organizations, Government of India raised the import duty of arecanut from 35% to 100% to restrict imports. Further, the Finance Ministry has also issued instructions to the Customs Officials to prevent the illegal entry of arecanut into (he country.

Revival of Separatist/Terrorist Groups

† *53. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received the information regarding terrorist and separatist groups becoming active again after uniting together in several States recently;

(b) if so, the names of these terrorist oganizations and the States where activities of these organizations have spread so far, and

(c) the number of violent incidents carried out by these terrorist groups by the end of June, 2005 in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Recent available inputs suggest that terrorist outfits particularly Lashkher-e-Toiba (LeT) intend to carry out disruptive and subversive activities besides J&K, in various parts of the counry by attacking sensitive/vital installations, VIPs, religious places, places of national importance and important economic infrastructure. These are also reports to indicate that Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) is attempting to revive militancy in Punjab. The terrorist groups continue in indulge in violent activities in some of the North-Eastern States.

(c) Apart from twin bomb blasts in Cinema Halls in Delhi on May 22,2005 and a terrorist attack in Ayodhya on July 5,2005,981 violent

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

incidents caused by terrorist outfits including LeT, have occurred in J&K during the current year upto June 30, 2005. 560 incidents of violence by terrorists have taken place in the North-East till June, 2005.

Decline in youth Joining the Army

*54. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have conducted a survey to ascertain the reasons for decline in the tendency among youths to join Army; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase of tourists in Kashmir

55. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of tourists have increased following decrease in terrorist activities in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of last three years;

(c) whether tour of Kashmir is safe for the tourists; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures adopted by Government for security of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by the State Government, the details of the number of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.